

Claim Amendments:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An arrangement including
a set of knitting machine needles, each having a shaft that is provided with
a hook at one end, an opposite end portion provided with a butt, and having planar
side surfaces, and,
a needle pouch (2), particularly for the knitting machine needles (5),
comprising
a first strip (12a) of flexible material; ~~the~~ with a width of the first strip (12a) ~~is~~
being greater than the a width of a the needle set (6) and ~~its~~ with a length ~~is of the~~
first strip being greater than the a length of a knitting machine needle (5),
a second strip (12b) of flexible material; with a ~~the~~ width of the second
strip (12b) ~~is being~~ greater than ~~the a~~ width of the needle set (6), and with the
second strip (12b) ~~lies lying~~ face-to-face on a portion (14) of ~~the a~~ flat-disposed first
strip (12a), and
at least two strip-shaped connecting regions (21, 22), ~~by means of~~
which wherein the second strip (12b) is connected to the first strip (12a) ~~under the~~
~~formation of~~ to form a pouch there between, (18) with the dimensions of the formed
pouch being such that the knitting needles of the needle set are clamped together
and held in parallel relationship with abutting side surfaces in alignment by the fit of
the pouch and with the butt containing opposite end portions of the needles being
free to be grasped by hand.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~needle pouch as~~ arrangement defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a lid portion (23) of the first strip (12a) is folded over the second strip portion (12b) and the pouch (18) and/or is releasably secured to at least one of the second strip portion (12b) and/or to the pouch (18).

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~needle pouch as~~ arrangement defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the flexible material from which the first and second strips (12a, 12b) is made, is paper.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~needle pouch as~~ arrangement defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the flexible material from which the first and second strips (12a, 12b) is made, is a plastic.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~needle pouch as~~ arrangement defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the flexible material from which the first and second strips (12a, 12b) is made, is a laminated material.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~needle pouch as~~ arrangement defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first strip (12a) and the second strip (12b) constitute a coherent strip (12) and adjoin one another along a fold line (16).

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~needle pouch as~~ arrangement defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first strip (12a) and the second strip (12b) are regions of one and the same coherent strip (12).

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~needle-pouch as~~ arrangement defined in claim ~~6~~ 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the fold line (16) extends transversely to the longitudinal direction of the strip (12) from one edge to another edge thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~needle-pouch as~~ arrangement defined in claim ~~6~~ 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the fold line (16a) is parallel to the longitudinal direction of the first strip (12a).

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~needle-pouch~~ arrangement as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the connecting regions (21, 22) are adhesive locations.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~needle-pouch~~ arrangement as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the connecting regions (21, 22) are weld locations.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~needle-pouch~~ arrangement as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the connecting regions (21, 22) are crimped locations.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~needle-pouch~~ arrangement as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the connecting regions (21, 22) border the edge of the strip (12) and the pouch is (18) enclosed between the two connecting regions.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~needle pouch~~ arrangement as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the width of the pouch (18) equals the width of the needle set (6).

15. Cancelled

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~needle pouch~~ arrangement as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the length of the pouch (18) equals the length of the needle shanks (7).

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~needle pouch~~ arrangement as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein an adhesive location is provided for releasably securing the lid portion (23).

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~needle pouch~~ arrangement as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein an adhering tab (26) or a seal is provided for releasably securing the lid portion (23).

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~needle pouch~~ arrangement as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the length of the second strip (12b) is less than the length of a knitting machine needle (5).

20. (Currently Amended) A needle package comprising a needle pouch (2) as defined in claim 1 and a box (3) for receiving the needle pouch (2).

21. (Currently Amended) The needle package as defined in claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the box is a plastic box.

22. (Currently Amended) The needle package as defined in claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the box has an inner space, whose base outline corresponds to the outer contour of the needle pouch ~~(2)~~.

23. (Original) A method of packaging elongated, flat elements, such as knitting machine needles ~~(5)~~, comprising the following steps:

gathering several elements into a group ~~(6)~~ in which the elements lie laterally against one another,

placing the group ~~(6)~~ on a mid portion ~~(14)~~ of a strip ~~(12)~~ of flexible material and holding the elements together,

folding a portion ~~(15)~~ of the strip ~~(12)~~ of flexible material onto the elements,

attaching the folded-over portion ~~(15)~~ of the strip ~~(12)~~ at both sides of the elements up to the elements under the formation of a pouch ~~(18)~~, and

closing the pouch ~~(18)~~ by folding over a lid portion ~~(23)~~ of the strip ~~(12)~~ and attaching the lid portion ~~(23)~~ to the packaging.

24. (Original) The method as defined in claim 23, characterized in that the strip ~~(12)~~ is cut from an endless web before positioning the elements thereon.

25. (Original) The method as defined in claim 23, characterized in that the strip (12) is cut from an endless web after positioning the elements thereon.